

2014 *Durham Comprehensive Plan* Implementation Highlights

City-County Planning

- Developed initial recommendations for infrastructure needs at future urban rail stations as part of the Station Area Strategic Infrastructure Plan.
- Completed and implemented the Village of Rougemont Plan.
- Completed a Downtown Open Space Plan to identify needs, opportunities, and priorities for various types of open space throughout the Downtown Tier. The City Council adopted the Plan on October 20, 2014.
- Currently developing an Urban Open Space Plan to identify needs, opportunities, and priorities for open space in the Urban Tier.

Department of Transportation

- Durham is a bronze-level Bicycle-Friendly Community.
- The Triangle Regional Model (TRM) is developing a new version (6.0), and continues to be used for different land use and transportation scenarios for long range transportation, transit and non-motorized plans.

City Public Works Department

- Public Works monitored City streams and gathered the water quality data needed to publish an updated State of Our Streams report for 2014. City-wide, the Water Quality Index was 79 for calendar year 2014 (on a scale of 0–100). Water quality index is based on a 12-month rolling average.
- Public works issued two contracts (Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association and Durham Soil and Waters Conservation District) in 2014 for education and installation of residential retrofits such as rain garden and cisterns.
- Public Works worked with Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association and other partners throughout 2014 on a Green Infrastructure Grant to evaluate a downtown subwatershed for opportunities to implement green infrastructure/LID type retrofits. The Green Infrastructure Partnership formed is to continue on.

Durham Public Schools

- Durham Public Schools hired an energy and sustainability coordinator to identify opportunities for cost-effective energy conservation in all public school buildings.

Parks and Recreation

- The City of Durham in fiscal year 2014–2015 instituted a “Half Penny for Parks” program, adding a half-cent to the property tax level to be specifically dedicated to park and trail maintenance. That extra funding began in July 2014 and has resulted in significant improvements.

Engineering and Environmental Services

- The Durham County sewer collection system operates in compliance with established standards. The County was awarded Collection System of the Year Award for 2013 and 2014 by the North Carolina American Water Works Association and North Carolina Water Environmental Association (NCAWWA/WEA).
- Durham County's Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant meets all applicable permit limits. It is the only wastewater treatment plant meeting the future Jordan Lake nutrient load limits.

Fleet Management

- The City's Fleet Management Department was awarded 50th place in Government Green Fleet™ Awards from *Green Fleet Magazine*, Green Fleet Conference organizers, and The 100 Best Fleets in North America. The City of Durham is the only city in North Carolina to make the Top 50 list. The Government Green Fleet Award is open to the more than 38,000 federal, state, and local government fleets in North America.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

- Through December 31, 2014, the stated response performance goal is met 48-62% of the time.
- During the 2014–2015 budget process, funds were allocated for a facilities suitability study and comprehensive plan. That study began in late 2014 and is under way as of this writing.

Library Services

- Durham County Library completed its strategic plan for 2014–2017 focusing on five overarching goals and confirming our dedication as a service-minded organization.
- The library maintains a level of 4.0 items per capita, representing all materials owned by Durham County Library.
- Completion of Durham County Library's Regional Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) ensures that most County residents are within a 5-mile radius of a county library facility.
- The Library Foundation contributed funds toward the purchase of a new Bookmobile.
- The Library has launched several new technologies in the past year: it upgraded and streamlined its catalog, and updated its website to reflect the updated county branding; it launched *Zino*, a digital magazine service featuring over 75 magazines (library cardholders are able to access digital magazines from any computer, tablet, or smart phone from the library's website; and it conducts monthly "Makerspaces" introducing new technologies to the community.

Water Management

- Both water treatment facilities are undergoing upgrades to meet stringent nitrogen and phosphorus removal requirements that go into effect in 2016 and 2018.
- The department, as lead agency in the 13-member Jordan Lake Partnership, recently participated in an award-winning planning effort that culminated in the "Triangle

Regional Water Supply Plan (TWRSP).” This document identifies the water supply options available to the City and its partners in the region and offers a series of alternatives based on feasibility of development.

- Through the Jordan Lake Partnership, Durham has strengthened its interconnections with neighboring utilities and is in phase two of a regional hydraulic modeling effort to determine transfer capabilities throughout the region.
- In the last 2 years, the department has purchased several properties around Lake Michie for watershed protection.
- During 2014, the Western Intake Feasibility Study was completed. This study, funded by Durham, Chatham County, OWASA, and Pittsboro, explored the feasibility of a shared intake on the western shore of Jordan Lake as well as a shared water treatment facility. This information was included in each of the above-named partners’ requests for allocation (existing or expanded) from Jordan Lake (Round 4).
- Upgrades are underway at both the North and South Durham water reclamation facilities to reduce the amount of nitrogen in discharges to meet Falls and Jordan Lake requirements. Additional projects to address sidestream treatment options are underway. A number of other upgrades, such as additional clarifiers, are being designed.
- The department’s toilet rebate program was expanded to include commercial customers, increasing the number of toilets replaced, and helping to reduce the per capita water usage throughout the service area.

General Services

- The General Services Department obtained \$15K in funding from both City and County budgets to match funding from Blackwell Street Management Co., Durham Performing Arts Center, and Downtown Durham, Inc. for Blackwell Street Management Co. to manage a landscape maintenance contract with Parker Landscaping to provide landscape maintenance services for NC147 between the Fayetteville and Duke Street interchanges. This is a joint City-County Strategic Plan initiative. The contract provides year-round litter removal and seasonal mowing of the state right-of-way as well as special projects. Special projects for 2015 have included removal of undergrowth and chemical weed control of plant beds. City Urban Forestry staff has performed tree pruning and removal where all parties have agreed. Worn fencing has been identified but is not funded for replacement.
- The Department has inventoried over 3000 trees to date in the development of a comprehensive urban tree canopy plan.
- The City General Services Department has established a multiyear energy management program focusing on improvements for the City’s top seven energy-consuming buildings. Capital Improvement Project funding continues to be utilized for lighting, HVAC, and HVAC controls in the buildings, in support of established energy reduction goals.
- Energy conservation features have been incorporated into recently completed designs, including the energy management capital projects, but also in Fire Station 9; a Fleet roofing project; rain garden features, as part of several fire station renovation projects; and the City Hall Envelope project.

- A Parks and Trails Maintenance Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Department and Durham Parks and Recreation in November 2014. A first draft of a Facilities Maintenance MOU is in progress, and a first draft of a parks and trails vegetation management plan is completed and under review by staff. Items remaining “unclaimed” by both departments will be evaluated for appropriate assignment by the City Manager’s Office.
- Two full time–equivalent employees were approved for the trail maintenance crew for fiscal year 2015; the crew is meeting maintenance standards to date.
- City General Services, in conjunction with the City-County Sustainability office, has installed 5 Electric Vehicle charging stations to support both City vehicles and for free use by citizens. Electric Vehicles were transferred between departments to increase use and further support the goals.

Economic and Workforce Development

- A policy revision was made in 2014 to add Ninth Street as a target area for community development.

Sustainability

- The City-County Sustainability Office works with many City and County departments as well as community partners to implement the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Local Action Plan. Examples of implementation practices include establishing an electric vehicle charging station network, providing energy retrofits for 709 homes, upgrading public facilities, establishing Trees Across Durham, and implementing the Charge Ahead Durham social marketing campaign.
- The City continues to develop energy-efficient, healthy homes that meet SystemsVision, an Energy Star and Enterprise Green Communities certification. The Southside Redevelopment project includes single-family detached homes with 26 homes under construction that will meet Energy Star and System Vision requirements. The Lofts at Southside, an affordable mixed-income community consisting of 132 multifamily units, will be certified according to the Enterprise Green Community criteria. Future phases of the Southside redevelopment project will incorporate green requirements into site design and construction activity.
- The City has designated a part-time energy manager to focus on understanding and reducing facility energy use and has designated funding in the capital improvement plan for energy conservation projects. DPS hired a full-time coordinator for energy and sustainability in November 2014. The county completed construction of a \$4.5 million utility performance contracting process focused on significantly reducing energy and water use in seven facilities. The City-County Sustainability Office also added a sustainability specialist. Both the City and County have added energy monitoring hardware and software to several buildings.

Neighborhood Improvement Services

- Code Enforcement continues to enforce the City Housing Code and Unsafe Building Codes ordinances. In fiscal year 2015 to date, 22 cases have been taken to the Housing Appeals Board, and 63 cases have been presented to the Community Life Court. An additional 44 cases were brought into compliance prior to Community Life Court appearance.
- Code Enforcement staff routinely enforce the City ordinances concerning accumulation of trash, junk, weeds and overgrowth, and junked and abandoned vehicles on properties. In calendar year 2014, a total of 350 overgrown yards were mowed, and debris was removed from 240 neglected properties.
- In fiscal year 2015, boarding was removed from 30 structures, and an additional 3 structures were stabilized through the use of clear polycarbonate panels. NIS is transitioning from the use of wooden boards to clear polycarbonate panels.

Solid Waste

- Bulky item collection is a service provided in a timely and efficient manner, collecting from over 35,000 customers on time 95% of the scheduled time.
- The department opened a new household hazardous waste facility that included a drop-off area for e-waste, white metals, oil and grease recycling, and a community swap shop that recycles used items.
- Curbside waste reduction is at 24%, with 124,000 tons disposed.